3 Gr. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MMI Aden MMI

Subsidiary coins are legal tender for sums not exceeding one rupee. Indian Government currency notes are in circulation—the denominations being Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 50 and Rs. 100.

The Finance Officer of the Colony is the local Currency Authority but the National Bank of India, Limited, who are the Government Bankers, co-operate with Government in all currency matters, the withdrawal of unserviceable notes and coinage and the provision of new currency being arranged through them.

Weights and Measures

The Imperial weights and measures and certain Indian weights are in common use. For instance, the Indian Tola, which is equivalent to approximately half an ounce, is at present used as a unit of weight for inland postal purposes, but its use will probably be discontinued in the near future. There is a local "maund" weight of 28 lbs., as compared with the Bombay maund which is about 80 lbs.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION

The Colony, as such, came into being on the 1st April, 1937, and the financial year runs from the 1st April to the 31st March. The figures of actual revenue and expenditure for the first year, 1937/38, and the revised estimates for 1938/39 are as follows:—

Revenue

	Actual 1937–38.	*Revised Estimates 1938–39.*
	Rs.	Rs.
Duties, Taxes and Licences	10,19,774	9,80,000
Fees and Receipts for Government services	1,43,173	1,20,000
Contributions and Reimbursements ...	3,60,494	3,94,000
Posts and Telephones	6,50,573	4,00,000
Miscellaneous	60,380	16,000
	22,34,396	19,90,000

Expenditure

	Rs.	Rs.
Recurrent	15,52,579	16,09,000
Extraordinary ...	1,44,497	1,34,000
	16,96,977	17,43,000
Surplus	5,55,619	1,47,000

The principal decrease in revenue is under Posts and Telephones, receipts from the sale of stamps having been exceptionally heavy in

4 Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 M141 Aden M141

Currency.

The monetary unit is the Indian rupee (silver) and is legal tender for any amount. The subsidiary Indian coins are:—

Silver—
Half rupee.
Quarter rupee.
Nickel—
Four annas piece.
Two annas piece.
One annas piece.
Bronze—
Single pice (¼ anna).
One pie piece (1-12th anna).

Subsidiary coins are legal tender for sums not exceeding one rupee. Indian Government currency notes are in circulation—the denominations being Rs.5, Rs.10, Rs.50, and Rs.100.

Prior to the transfer of Aden to the control of the Colonial Office the Government of India maintained a Currency Reserve in Aden. The reserve as it stood on the 1st April, 1937, was allowed to remain in Aden to meet the requirements of the Royal Air Force against payment to the Government of India in London. The reserve was reduced to about Rs.6 lakhs by the end of 1937 and will soon be exhausted. When it is exhausted, the provision of currency in Aden will be arranged through the banks. The Government, however, will take steps to see that both the coinage and notes in circulation are kept in good condition.

Weights and Measures.

The Imperial weights and measures are in common use, as also are certain Indian weights. For instance, in the Post Office inland letters are exchanged at so much per *tola*: foreign letters, however, are weighed by the ounce. A *tola* is the weight of a freshly minted rupee, *i.e.*, 0·4114 of an ounce. Eighty *tolas* = 1 *seer* and 40 *seers* = 1 Bombay *maund* (about 80 lb.). There is, however, a local *maund* which is only 28 lb.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

As the Colony only came into existence on the 1st April, 1937, the figures of revenue and expenditure for the first financial year are not yet available. The approved and revised estimates for 1937-8 are as follows:—

REVENUE.

	Approved Estimates.	*Revised Estimates.*
	Rs.	Rs.
Duties, Taxes, etc.	931,000	950,000
Court Fees and Government Services ...	91,500	110,000
Reimbursements	323,360	330,000
Posts and Telephones	262,000	280,000
Miscellaneous	53,000	30,000
	1,664,860	1,700,000

S.Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

647 staff. Public Relations services were somewhat curtailed by the withdrawal of B.I.S.M.E. services in the supply of periodicals and films, and the fact that much of the equipment used throughout the war years had become unserviceable. The most important activities of the Information Office were, however, maintained throughout the year.

Newspapers

204 The *Aden Observer*, an eight-page English newspaper, which succeeded the *Aden Argus*, was published weekly and sold at two annas a copy, with a circulation of 1,000 copies a week. The paper ceased publication at the end of the year.

An Arabic newspaper *Al Akhbar al Adaniya* was also published each week and 1,000–1,500 copies were distributed free in the Colony and Protectorates.

Reading Rooms

368 Six Reading Rooms were maintained throughout the year at Tawahi, Crater and Sheikh Othman in the Colony; and at Lahej, Mukalla and Seiyun in the Protectorates.

Two others, at Shibam and Gheil Ba Wazir in the Eastern Protectorate, were closed towards the end of the year, as it was considered that they were too remote from supervision and the regular supply of literature to be well run. In addition, reading material has been despatched to Perim and Kamaran Islands and to Red Sea Lighthouses whenever available.

The Reading Rooms are supplied with periodicals, posters and photographs, which are changed each week; the Reading Rooms in the Colony and Western Protectorate also have radios. As mentioned above, the volume of periodicals has been reduced, although a certain number are still distributed both for sale and for use in Reading Rooms.

Cinema

647 546 The Information Office has two 16-mm. projectors in the Colony. In the absence of equipment on order from the United Kingdom, it was difficult to give regular or reliable cinema shows, but every effort was made to revive this activity which had been in abeyance since 1945. The projectors were overhauled during the latter part of the year, and brought into use for several public shows.

English newsreels were received each week from England, and distributed at low rental to local cinemas.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

809 Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the frasila, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MN1

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION

Criticism of the Information Department, which had been persistent but mild while the cost fell on His Majesty's Government, was intensified when, in accordance with imperial policy, the cost of Colony services was transferred to Colony funds, and an investigation into the activities of the Department was made by a special committee during 1948. In accordance with their recommendation the Governor set up an Advisory Committee for the Department on which unofficial opinion was well represented, and the Department was allowed to continue for a further year. The policy for the future is still under consideration. But in the meantime, such steps as were possible were taken to reduce unprofitable activities and concentrate available resources on approved services. The local newspaper run by Government was discontinued, though the question of giving assistance to some newspaper is still under consideration. The reading rooms in the Colony were closed.

On the other hand, provision for mobile cinemas was increased from one to three. A public address system was installed throughout the Fortress, is being extended to Sheikh Othman, and was used for daily announcements of public interest.

Plans are under consideration for a regular broadcasting service, to serve both the Colony and the Protectorate, and if this comes into operation, the Arabic news will also be put over the public loudspeaker.

The Information Officer inaugurated a series of weekly pamphlets giving information, in English and Arabic, regarding Government intentions and achievements, and explanations in simple language of laws and regulations which were brought into force.

The routine activities of the Information Department, including the supply of news reels to commercial cinemas, the distribution of periodicals to institutions and interested persons, and the provision of information services to the Aden Protectorate and Kamaran, were maintained during the year.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the frasila, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

The following newspapers are published in the Colony:

Reuters Bulletin (daily issue), published by Reuters' Agent in Aden, P. & O. House, Steamer Point, Aden.

Fatat-el-Jazirah (weekly Arabic paper), published by Mohamed Ali Luqman, Crater, Aden.

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden mm1

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and nine pilots. Mercantile marine matters are dealt with by the Port Officer. The present incumbent is also Superintendent of Lighthouses.

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The Port has continued to thrive throughout the period and there has been a further increase in the number and tonnage of ships using the harbour. There has been an increase in the number of ships calling for the purpose of bunkering and a consequent increase in the business done by the oil supplying companies. Coal bunkering has shown the falling off noticeable in previous years.

The Aden Port Trust publishes an annual report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION OFFICE

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The Public Relations and Information Office continued under the part-time supervision of the District Commissioner with an Advisory Committee representing local opinion. In accordance with their recommendations the main activity has been the showing of news and documentary films, in English and Arabic, at clubs and in public open spaces.

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A regular series of Bulletins, in English and Arabic and occasionally Gujerati, was published on departmental activities and matters of local interest, and these are now issued from time to time on special topics. Regular news sheets were issued in 1949 and early in 1950, but these have now been replaced by occasional press conferences with Heads of Departments as the local Arab press is increasing in circulation and experience and becoming more qualified to give publicity to Government intentions and achievements.

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There is no local broadcasting system, news and entertainment being offered direct by the B.B.C. Arabic Service and the broadcasting stations of Cairo, Delhi, Damascus, Baghdad and other Arab countries.

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A public address system, with loud-speakers in open spaces in the main centres of population, is used for announcements of importance.

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Public reading rooms in the Colony, which had been set up by the Ministry of Information during the war, were closed as a measure of economy in 1948, but three were maintained in the Protectorate.

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The routine activities of the Office which includes the supply of news reels to commercial cinemas, the distribution of periodicals to institutions and interested persons, and the provision of information services to the Aden Protectorate and Kamaran, were maintained during the year.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

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Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the frasila, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1
Had Pamphlet MM2

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PORT ADMINISTRATION

The Port of Aden is administered by a Board of Trustees constituted under the Aden Port Trust Ordinance (No. 3 of 1951). The Board is at present composed of four officials including the Chairman, and eight non-officials. The Trustees, with the exception of the Chairman, are appointed by the Governor for a period of two years. Vacancies during this period are also filled by the Governor.

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The Port Trust maintains a pilot service consisting of one Harbour Master and nine pilots. Mercantile marine matters are dealt with by the Port Officer. The present incumbent is also Superintendent of Lighthouses.

A 504

The Port has continued to thrive throughout the period and there has been a further increase in the number and tonnage of ships using the harbour. There has been an increase in the number of ships calling for the purpose of bunkering and a consequent increase in the business done by the oil supplying companies. Coal bunkering has shown the falling off noticeable in previous years.

The Aden Port Trust publishes an annual report.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

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Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the frasila, which is normally 28 lb. but varies for different commodities.

Chapter 5: Reading List for Colony and Protectorate

A 113 H 113

BELHAVEN, Master of. *The Kingdom of Melchior.* London, Murray, 1949.

BURCKHARDT, J. L. *Travels in Arabia.* 2 vols. London, Henry Colburn, 1829.

BURY, G. W. *The Land of Uz.* London, Macmillan, 1911.

FORBES, H. O. *The Natural History of Socotra and Abd-el-Kuri.* Liverpool, 1903.

HUNTER, F. M. *An Account of the British Settlement of Aden in Arabia.* London, Trubner, 1877.

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PHILBY, H. ST. J. B. *A Pilgrim in Arabia.* London, Hale, 1946.

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